

*Udhma* on the authority of Qataada.’ Regardless of whether or not this hadith is authentic, the verse above is clear that the jinn have intercourse and that satisfies us as proof.

Some people allege that the jinn do not eat, drink or have sex, but that claim is false as we have shown in our clear proofs from the Quran and the sunnah.

Some scholars are of the opinion that there are different types of jinn and some of them do eat or drink while others do not. Wahb ibn Munabih said, “The jinn are of different kinds. One is a pure jinn, and that is like a wind that does not eat or drink, nor does it die or procreate. And there is a class of them that does eat, drink, procreate and has sex and dies. And those are those female demons and desert demons and similar others.” This was recorded by ibn Jarir at Tabari.<sup>2</sup>

But what Wahb said is itself in need of evidence and cannot be considered a proof on its own.

Many scholars have delved into the nature of their eating: is it similar to that of the humans, do they swallow or is it by sniffing and so forth. It is a mistake and not allowed to delve into such matters and we are not required to know about such things. Neither Allah or His Messenger (peace be upon him) have informed us of such matters.

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<sup>1</sup> In the way that the report is being referred to, it seems that it is from the *mursal* reports of Qataada. Such reports are considered weak, unless they are supported through other sources. Unfortunately, the recently published edition of ibn Abu Haatim’s *tafseer* does not extend all the way to *Surah al-Rabmaan* to be able to check the entire chain.-JZ

<sup>2</sup> *Lawaami al-Anwaar*, vol. 2, p. 222.

## Marriage between the jinn and humans

One still hears about some man marrying a jinn or some woman marrying one of the jinn or a woman being proposed to by one of the jinn. Al-Suyooti mentioned many such reports from the early generations and scholars pointing to the existence of marriages between humans and jinn. Ibn Taimiya said, "Humans and jinn have gotten married and have had children, this has happened often and is well-known."

Assuming it is possible, many of the scholars showed a dislike for such a marriage. Scholars such as al-Hasan, Qataada, al-Hukum and Ishaq were known to have shown a dislike for it. Imam Malik could not find any text that would prohibit it but he himself did not like for it to occur and he gave his reason for saying so, "I hate that it would be the case that we would find a woman who is pregnant and we ask her, 'Who is your husband?' and she replies, 'One of the jinn.' Much evil would be the result of that."

A group of people are of the opinion that it is not permitted to marry from the jinn. From the blessings of Allah is that He created for mankind spouses of their own species. Allah says in the Quran,

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ  
بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

"And of His signs is this: He created for you mates from yourselves that you might find rest in them, and He ordained between you love and mercy" (*al-Room* 21). If it could occur, it would not be possible to have

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<sup>1</sup> *Majmoo Fatawa*, vol.19, p. 39. [It should be noted that there is no direct evidence for such an occurrence. The Prophet (peace be upon him) never referred to such a practice. The narrations concerning such incidences from later authorities cannot, in themselves, be considered proofs concerning this matter. Furthermore, there does not seem to be any evidence that any children existed that had characteristics of being partly jinn and partly human. Today, in the United Arab Emirates, there is a clan that claims to be descendant from a female jinn. However, their characteristics are no different from any other human. Hence, it is impossible to prove their claim.—JZ]

that companionship and love between the spouses due to their different species. The goal and wisdom of marriage would not be attainable since the tranquillity and love mentioned by Allah in the Quran would be impossible.

In any case, although people claim that such marriages occur presently and have occurred in the past, if such does occur, it is rare and strange. Furthermore, the one who performs it must seek the Islamic ruling concerning it. It could be the case that the one who does it is, in a sense, overpowered and has no way to escape that situation.

And what points to the possibility of marriage between the two species is the mention of the female companions in paradise. Allah says about them

لَمْ يَطْمِثْهُنَّ إِنْسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ

“Whom neither man nor jinn have touched before them” (*al-Rahmaan* 56). And this verse points to both the jinn and mankind being equally suitable for them.

## Do the devils die?

There is no doubt that the jinn, and the devils among them, do die. The following Quranic verse applies to them,

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ ﴿٦٦﴾ وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهُ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ ﴿٦٧﴾  
فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ

“Everyone that is therein will pass away; There remains but the countenance of your Lord of Might and Glory. Which is it, of the favors of your Lord, that you deny?” (*al-Rahmaan* 26-28). In *Sahih al-Bukhari* it is reported from Ibn Abbas that the Prophet used to say,

أَعُوذُ بِعِزَّتِكَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ وَالْجِنُّ وَالْإِنْسُ يَمُوتُونَ

“I seek refuge, by your Glory, the One, whom there is no other god but You, the One who does not die, and the jinn and mankind do die.”

Concerning the length of their lives, we do not know much except what Allah has said concerning the accursed Satan who has been given respite and life until the Day of Judgment. Allah says,

قَالَ أَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمٍ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ

“He said: Reprieve me till the day when they are raised (from the dead). He said: Lo! you are of those reprieved” (*Al-Asaaf* 14-15).

Concerning other jinn or devils, we do not know their lifespans. But we do know that their lifespans are longer than that of the humans.

Further evidence that they do die is the report that Khaalid ibn Waleed killed the devil of al-Uza (a tree that the Arabs used to worship). And a Companion killed a jinn that took the shape of a serpent, as shall be discussed later.

## The residence of the jinn and their places and the times that they can be found

The jinn live upon the same earth as humans do. Most of them can be found among the ruins and dilapidated areas, as well as the places where there are many impure things, such as, bathrooms, hashish dens, the places of the camels, cemeteries. For that reason, as Ibn Taimiya said, those people who are close to Satan usually inhibit such areas. There are hadith that say that one should not pray in bathrooms due to the impurities present and because it is the abode of Satan, or in cemeteries as this leads to polytheism and it is also a home for the devils.